New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS August 29, 2024 11:13 am Chrome 127.0.0.0 / OS X 4.7.130.134 1260264222 36.0571, -86.6729

Name	Colby Parks
Email	colby.parks@leadpublicschools.org
Phone	6155686278
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Williamson County
Relationship to Application/District	LEA Staff Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	As the Director of MTSS for LEAD, I am heavily in support of LEAD Cameron (LC) Elementary School. In the beginning of the year, we spend lots of time placing students into the appropriate intervention levels. Time and time again, our students who are LC returners are moving up through the intervention levels and making significant gains while our new-to-LC students continue to be the students who need the lowest levels of intervention. These indicate significant gaps in foundational skills potentially as a result of their elementary schools not adequately ensuring they master basic reading and math calculation. Students without IEPs or any previous identifications are continually arriving to LEAD Cameron Middle School requiring addition and subtraction math intervention and decoding and fluency reading interventions. With LEAD Cameron Elementary, LEAD would ensure students receive high quality Tier I instruction along with all necessary tiered interventions, to send students to middle school with strong foundational mastery. Students deserve an elementary education that successfully prepares them for accessing middle school content.

Name	Dr. Cindy Minnis
Email	minnisfam@comcast.net
Phone	6152942780
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Cheatham is home residence; employment is with school districts within Middle TN including Metro
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	special education provider/partner
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	As a school psychologist and in leadership roles within the field of special education, I have had the opportunity to partner with hundreds of schools, both during my 20+ years with MNPS and in the 5 years I've worked in the private sector and partnered with TN districts and charter schools. I've seen a wide range of charter school compliance and support for students with disabilities. LEAD has consistently prioritized the needs of all students, going above and beyond to ensure their schools remain compliant with federal, state, and district regulations. More importantly, their values are well-aligned with those of the district, supporting families and students with exceptional needs in innovative and inclusive ways, because they wholeheartedly want the best for all students. I have personally observed that LEAD cultivates a highly collaborative relationship with MNPS and view this as an opportunity for MNPS to take credit for the years of hard work and resources invested in charter school oversight and partnership. Students in MNPS charters are MNPS students and this is a network to be proud of supporting!

New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 6, 2024 10:24 am Chrome 128.0.0.0 / OS X 99.97.140.61 1262777847 36.1988, -86.7881

Savannah Spencer
savannah.brunet@leadpublicschools.org
(629) 256-8877
District Resident
Other
LEAD Network Employee
LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Hello! My name is Savannah Spencer and I am the Network Math Coordinator for LEAD Public Schools and have been working to develop the plans for our math program in our elementary schools. We have already begun observing elementary schools that are implementing curriculums to see best practices and to plan for effective training. We are working to roll out math instruction at our elementary schools in alignment with our vision of effective math instruction at our middle and high schools. Once our schools open, we will continue to support our teachers through instructional coaching, data analysis and instructional planning to ensure achievement for all students. We can't wait to build out a full educational pathway to see our students be successful in college and in life! Best, Savannah Spencer

Name	Richard Frank
Email	richardfrankedu@gmail.com
Phone	6155859000
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	I'm asking the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to take a close look at LEAD Cameron Elementary's application. I genuinely believe this school can make a real difference in our community by providing the quality education our kids deserve. LEAD Cameron Elementary is dedicated to helping students grow academically and personally. Thanks for considering this appeal.

Form Name: Submission Time: Browser: IP Address: Unique ID: Location:	September 17, 2024 1	1266469117	
Name		Whitney Russell	
Email		whitney.russell@mnps.org	
Phone		(615) 715-7630	
Resident District	Status	Non-district Resident	
Relationship to A	pplication/District	Other	
What is your relat application?	ionship to the	Principal of Napier Elementary School	
I wish to commen	t in support of	MNPS	
Written Comment		Please see written comment	
Written Comment		https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/16924246203	

New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 17, 2024 1:55 pm Chrome 128.0.0.0 / OS X 73.58.164.186 1266537988 36.1093, -86.8653

Name	Paulita Edmondson
Email	paulita.edmondson@leadpublicschools.org
Phone	(901) 336-3520
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	My name is Paulita Edmondson and I am starting my third school year with Lead Public Schools as a school counselor. We want a LEAD Elementary school to be voted for approval. I am here to advocate for the approval of LEAD elementary school. The LEAD network truly does amazing work with our students in middle and high school, but I believe that being able to close the achievement gap even sooner would allow our students more opportunities. Intervening in elementary school will prepare our learners for middle school and beyond. The relationship teachers build with their students and families are more than just a staff parent interaction. The goal is to holistically serve the child which means meeting families where they are and providing the best educational experience for learners. LEAD provides this and more by the programs they offer and the amount of staff who offer their personal time to bring more sports, clubs and activities to the school. These extra clubs include Step Team, Braiding club, and basketball clinics to name a few. This is good for not just our schools, but the community at large because LEAD pours back into the students and creates opportunities for them to be leaders within their community. LEAD prepares students to advocate for themselves as well as others. I moved here from Memphis in 2022 with my niece who had suffered years of neglect and trauma and I decided to place her in a LEAD School. She
	immediately began making friends and developed relationships with teachers. She told me it was the first time ever that she felt like she had a relationship with her teachers. This caused my niece to go from having failing grades in Memphis to making all As at LEAD. She ended up being accepted into a magnet high school. This is the groundwork LEAD does for our young learners. It meets them where they are and pushes them to their full potential. Why wouldn't we want to vote yes for elementary school? Let's vote for LEAD Southeast and LEAD Cameron Elementary. Let's create more jobs for the community and a great education option for parents.

Form Name: Submission Time: Browser: IP Address: Unique ID: Location:	September 18, 2024 3:	1266963448	
Name		Molly Rucker	
Email		marina.rucker@mnps.org	
Phone		(615) 333-5600	
Resident District St	tatus	District Resident	
Relationship to Application/District		LEA Staff Member	
I wish to comment in support of		MNPS	

## Written Comment

Thank you for coming together today to discuss a matter of great importance to our community: the future of our educational system and the role of adding new charter schools within it. You are faced with the decision to defend Metro Nashville Public Schools' decision to deny the charter application for two elementary schools in the southeast of our city. This is a decision that must be considered carefully and decisively for the sake of our children's education and the values of our southeast community. Today, I stand before you to advocate for Metro Nashville Public Schools. My name is Molly Rucker, and I am the proud principal of Whitsitt Elementary School.

Charter schools were established for several reasons I want to combat today: Innovation, choice, and competition.

Charter schools are intended to be innovative and improve educational outcomes for the students they serve. At Whitsitt Elementary School, innovation is the center of our daily practice. Whitsitt Elementary is a former priority school. With a commitment from MNPS to support innovation and diverse learning opportunities through the magnet school grant, we are now a thriving Reward School. As an Environmental Engineering STEAM Magnet school, our instructional routines are rooted in the engineering design process to support a robust curriculum. The steps in this specific process allow students to choose their pathways to problem solving through hands-on learning and attention to the revision process with newly acquired skills.

The second point I want to speak to is the promise of choice to parents when selecting a school for their student. I want to draw your attention to the School Choice option for parents in MNPA. Attending your school of zone is no longer the norm in our school system today. Parents have a choice to select programming that meets the diverse needs of their students. As a school that is open enrollment, I am happy to tell you we have given 24 school tours this year to interested families, with a large percentage of them applying with Whitsitt as their number one choice. We do not need additional options for families in the southeast when we already provide diverse learning opportunities with choice for our students and families.

The last, and most important, point I want to address is Lead Charter School's claim to provide competitive and positive outcomes for student performance. I could speak about the lack of educational growth students are making when they leave MNPS schools for other unnecessary options, but I would rather celebrate the success students are experiencing when they return to Whitsitt Elementary School. In the last two years as measure by the state assessment, our science scores increased 20.4%, our literacy scores increased 16.2%, and our math scores increased by 35.4%. All this achievement comes while also maintaining a Level 5 TVAAS score for growth, Reward School status, and earning a B on the state's newest Report Card system. When providing a robust curriculum, innovative and diverse learning opportunities, and the right to choose within our district, these scores prove there is no competition.

In light of the risk of another failed opportunity promised by Lead Charter Schools, I ask for you to consider the children of southeast Nashville. Introducing two new charter elementary schools in the southeast weakens the resources and funding needed to maintain high performing schools. Saying no does not mean we lose the opportunity for innovation and diverse learning opportunities for our students. Saying no means we redirect, maintain a focus, and invest in the future of Metro Nashville Public Schools because you believe in high accountability, high achievement, and a high standard of education for our children.

Thank you for your time and your attention to the risks at hand and your commitment to our students and the future of Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Name	David Moore
Email	dhmdavid@aol.com
Phone	(615) 400-4505
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	MNPS
Written Comment	How will this charter differ from the public schools in this area?
	What will be offered that MNPS is not already offering?
	What is MNPS already offering that LEAD will NOT be offering?
	How was it determined that a charter school is necessary in this area?
	What does this charter offer that will differ from MNPS? Curricula? Research - based pedagogy? What is the research on what was written in the application as to why this charter is necessary?
	Who specifically will be leading this charter?
	What special academic and leadership skills do they bring that will bring about change?
	What is the track record of charters using the approach that the applicant is proposing?

Form Name: Submission Time: Browser: IP Address: Unique ID: Location:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 19, 2024 10:20 am Chrome 128.0.0.0 / OS X 65.57.167.150 1267230469 36.0571, -86.6729	
Name		Jamie Jenkins
Email		dr.jenkins04@gmail.com
Phone		(615) 438-8973
Resident District Stat	us	Non-district Resident
What is your resident	district?	Wilson County
Relationship to Application/District		LEA Staff Member
I wish to comment in support of		LEAD Cameron Elementary School

## Written Comment

Good Morning Members of TPCSC,

My name is Dr. Jamie S. Jenkins. I currently serve as an Assistant Principal with LEAD Public Schools. I am writing in support of creating two new elementary schools in the LEAD network. I offer a unique perspective in this matter, as a student, parent, and employee. I spent 38 years of my life in MNPS (14 as a student, 1 year as a parent, and 24 years as a teacher and administrator). I retired from MNPS in 2022. I had no intention of returning to the education field. After successfully opening and growing a few businesses in the year following retirement, I woke up one morning missing the daily interactions with students.

I researched how I could best serve the families of Nashville. I re-considered MNPS. I looked at Universities. I looked at private schools and charter schools. I considered the mission of each. I asked myself, "who is doing the work to truly impact kids in a positive way?" While all had strengths, I ultimately decided to interview for district positions and with LEAD. I was offered several positions during that time, but ultimately decided on LEAD. Keep in mind, this was one of the lowest paying positions I was offered, and as I expressed in those interviews, it was no longer about the money for me, but who is making the most meaningful impact on kids. For me, MNPS was out of the equation. My experiences there, while enjoyable and rewarding, did not culminate with a strong belief that MNPS was meeting the standard of care that the city needs in an education system.

After sitting down with Dwayne Tucker, it became very clear that, like me, it was not about the money. He spoke about doing what was best for kids, and he gave example after example of how this is played out every day at LEAD. I was not convinced, but was confident enough to find out more. I spoke to other LEAD employees--teachers and leaders--and they seemed to echo Mr. Tucker's statements.

I started with LEAD at the beginning of the 23-24 school year, and have been pleased with that decision. What I have found with LEAD is a deep passion for celebrating kids, fostering a love for learning in kids, and being very intentional about ensuring that high quality instruction happens in the classroom. Because LEAD provides an expanded level of instructional support with Instructional Managers, and divides the management roles of the school leadership at the school level, we are able to focus more on instruction, student support, and facilities operation at a higher level. In MNPS, after 16 years as an administrator, I was solely responsible for each of those very important tasks, which meant that I had to spread my time to each of them. As you know, it is a challenge to be great at one thing when you are spread thin.

The result at LEAD has been just as you saw in the hearing--LEAD is outpacing MNPS in test scores across the board. While not perfect, LEAD is doing the work with the same kids as MNPS. I ask you to imagine, how much more impact we can have starting with the youngest students in our city. I know this to be true--the elementary team that has been assembled is top tier. Dr. Ricki Gibbs, who is leading the charge, was a proven exceptional elementary principal, with a number of awards. During the 2020 school year, I sent my sons to Warner Elementary, where he transformed the school I attend as an elementary student, into a remarkable school. My sons left Warner Elementary energized and prepared. My youngest son left in the gifted program.

Both of the identified LEAD Elementary Principals are successful, veteran educators and have served as principals of schools for years. I accepted the role of being an Assistant Principal of one of the schools--a role I requested--in lieu of a head principal role. I have over 25 years of experience, with 17+ of those years being an administrator (assistant and head principal). I have 4 successful children of my own. I grew up in a diverse, yet impoverished single parent home in East Nashville. I have spent my career having a positive impact in the lives of kids. That fire still lives in me.

I ask you to consider the current academic data--it's outshines MNPS. I ask you to consider the qualitative data--LEAD discipline marks outshine MNPS. I ask you to consider stakeholder survey data--LEAD is providing an amazing service to the community. I ask you to consider the feeling of joy that permeates within the walls of LEAD schools--It far outweighs what I experienced in MNPS. One would only need to google LEAD Senior Signing Day or attend one of our campus's cultural celebrations. Finally, I ask you to consider, how great the impact we will have when we are afforded the opportunity to care, teach, and develop students from Kindergarten to college, with an amazing team of diverse and experienced leaders who not only know how to educate youth, but who have proven it, and are deeply committed to the care, growth, and learning of our youth. THAT EXCITES ME!

I ask that you approve the application to grant LEAD Public Schools two new elementary schools--LEAD Southeast Elementary and LEAD Cameron Elementary.

Best, Dr. Jamie S. Jenkins dr.jenkins04@gmail.com 615-438-8973

Name	Tait Danhausen
Email	tjarrettdanhausen@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 403-5507
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Healdsberg
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Former LEAD staff member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	See attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/16951811758

New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 23, 2024 2:25 pm Chrome 129.0.0.0 / OS X 99.177.192.13 1268475692 36.0048, -86.7886

Name	Jerome Oglesby
Email	joglesby615@yahoo.com
Phone	6155859519
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	NA
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	I would like to express my strong support for LEAD Cameron Elementary School before the TPCSC. LEAD has a proven track record of success, with every LEAD school outperforming its district-operated peers in proficiency across all subjects during the 2023-24 school year. Establishing a K-12 continuum will significantly enhance the academic readiness of our students, especially considering that 70% of our middle school students enter below grade level. Families in our targeted enrollment areas deserve better school options, and we are committed to providing them. We've assembled a highly qualified elementary team ready to make an immediate impact upon approval. Moreover, opening these elementary schools will support the growing population in Southeast Nashville, ensuring that our community has access to quality education. I wholeheartedly believe that LEAD Cameron Elementary will be a valuable addition to our educational landscape. Thank you.

Form Name: Submission Time: Browser: IP Address: Unique ID: Location:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 23, 2024 2:51 pm Chrome 128.0.0.0 / OS X 73.58.164.186 1268486988 36.1093, -86.8653	
Name		Mike Honoius
Email		mike.honious@geodis.com
Phone		(615) 289-4917
Resident District State	us	Non-district Resident
What is your resident	district?	Williamson County
Relationship to Application/District		Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of		LEAD Cameron Elementary School

**TPCSC Staff and Commission Members**,

My name is Mike Honious, and I have the honor of serving as board chairman for LEAD Public Schools' Board of Directors. I am writing to express my support for the opening of LEAD Cameron Elementary.

Expanding to the elementary tier is a part of the board's long-term strategy to accelerate academic improvements across our schools. Seventy percent of our students come to us in 5th and 6th grade below grade level. While all of our schools have achieved impressive gains in academic growth, entering middle school without the adequate foundational elements of learning puts our students at a significant disadvantage. We want to reach our students as early as possible so that we can put them on the right path to a successful future, and families deserve that opportunity with LEAD.

The culture at LEAD Public Schools is about relationships. We want to have a relationship with our students from the day they walk into our kindergarten classrooms through the day they walk across the stage at Senior Signing Day and proudly announce to their friends and families where they are planning to go to college. At LEAD, we pride ourselves on the level of engagement we have with our families, and that engagement plays a critical role in the success of our students. Imagine what we could accomplish when our relationship with families spans the full 12 years of their child's K-12 education.

One of the biggest differentiators for LEAD is our commitment to strong leadership. We believe developing strong leadership is the best way to create a sustainable environment of success in our schools, which is why we've invested in leaders like Dr. Ricki Gibbs to ensure we have the best elementary schools in the city. He's built a team of some of the strongest elementary talent in Nashville, and the board has full confidence in this team to open successful LEAD elementary schools.

We are ready to start this work. I ask that you please approve LEAD Cameron Elementary, so we can expand the great work LEAD is doing to impact more students and families in Nashville.

Mike Honious President and CEO GEODIS New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 23, 2024 5:44 pm Chrome 126.0.0.0 / OS X 174.49.41.69 1268554498 36.0964, -86.8212

Name	Jonathan Dyke
Email	dykej@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 915-0325
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	I'm very pleased to support LEAD Public School's application to the TPCSC for LEAD Cameron Elementary. As a long-time member of the board, I've seen first hand the positive impact our team has on students and families in the communities we serve. We have a clear strategy and the financial resources for our K-12 program and LEAD Cameron is a step in that positive direction.
	I will point you to LEAD's proven track record of success. Every LEAD school outperformed its district-operated peer school in proficiency for every subject area during the 2023-24 school year. Creating a K-12 continuum will improve the academic readiness of LEAD students. 70% of our students come to middle school below grade level so we fight an uphill battle to get students back on track. It is clear that the families living in the targeted enrollment areas want and deserve better school options. We've hired a proven elementary team (including top leaders from MNPS) to hit the ground running upon approval. The opening of these elementary schools would help support the population growth in Southeast Nashville.
	Further, as a long-time business leader and tax payer in Nashville, I'm terribly disappointed in the underwhelming leadership and lack of accountability we see with Dr. Battle and her MNPS team. LEAD is 100% focused on the best outcomes for students and their families and we have the data to prove it. Approving this application for LEAD is a "no-brainer" and while it may disappoint Dr. Battle, it is the right thing to do in supporting the students and families that need a positive path forward most.
	Sincerely, Jonathan Dyke LEAD Public Schools Board Member

New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 23, 2024 8:04 pm Chrome 128.0.0.0 / Windows 68.53.104.139 1268590519 36.1093, -86.8653

Name	Carter Paine
Email	carterpaine@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 427-1023
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	There's nothing more energizing that walking the historic halls of Cameron Middle School and seeing the once struggling MNPS school completely revitalized under LEAD's leadership over the past decade. Our students continue to outperform its district-operated peer schools in proficiency for every subject. We do this despite serving students who start from behind their grade level coming from MNPS. We believe we can create a healthier and more rigorous learning environment by creating a K-12 model around Cameron. We've hired a strong and proven elementary team in advance to hit the ground running upon approval. This is a transformative opportunity for our kids and our community. Please give us a chance to make this wonderful opportunity a near term reality. Thanks Carter Paine LEAD Board Member

New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - LEAD Cameron Elementary/MNPS September 23, 2024 8:26 pm Mobile Safari 17.6 / iOS 68.47.189.96 1268595068 36.0964, -86.8212

Name	Carlos Ryerson
Email	aryerson1@gmail.com
Phone	(650) 714-4462
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	I'm very pleased to support LEAD Public School's application to the TPCSC for LEAD Cameron Elementary. I have been a member of LEAD's board for 8 years and can speak first hand of the transformation that is happening inside our schools.
	Every single LEAD school outperformed its district-operated peer school in proficiency for every subject area during the 2023-24 school year. If LEAD was able to bring in an elementary school, it would significantly enhance our ability to develop kids that can start over-performing from a younger age. 70% of our students come to middle school below grade level, so it is very difficult to get children back to grade level in the early years of middle school. LEAD has a wonderful executive team in place that has been hired in advance of this potential elementary school expansion, and a board that is vey committed to the success of LEAD's elementary school effort.
	Please help us push this expansion over the goal line and transform the lives of so many Nashville families.
	Sincerely,
	Carlos A. Ryerson LEAD Board Member

Name	Linda Pannock
Email	lpannock@comcast.net
Phone	(615) 364-5309
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	LEAD Cameron Elementary School
Written Comment	<ul> <li>I'm honored to recommend LEAD Public Schools to expand their great work to the elementary level and honored to support their application for Cameron Elementary. This expansion will provide a LEAD exemplary education for children starting in their formative years and help the child be prepared for their middle school education. LEAD has a proven record of outperforming MNPS continually. A team has been focused on building elementary curriculum and is ready to step forward and lead/teach these deserving students.</li> <li>Linda Pannock</li> <li>LEAD Board Member Academic Chair</li> </ul>